

## 7 Stability of Beams

### 7.1 Concept of Stability

### 7.2 Stability Criteria

### 7.3 Definitions

- Columns, Structures, Beam Columns

### 7.4 Structures With and Without Postbuckling Strength

### 7.5 Stability of Columns (or Struts)

- Euler Buckling of Systems with Finite Number of Degrees of Freedom (Rigid-Bar-Spring Systems)
- Equilibrium (Euler) Method
- Energy Method
- Euler Buckling of Distributed Systems (Deformable Columns)

### 7.6 Critical Stresses in Columns

### 7.7 Eccentrically Loaded Columns

### 7.8 Effect of End Restraints on Buckling Loads

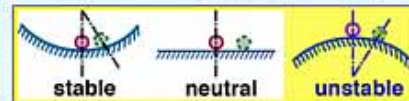
### 7.9 Inelastic Column Theory

## Concept of Stability

- A configuration (equilibrium state) is stable if a small perturbation (disturbance) results in a small change in the configuration.
- The original configuration is restored upon the removal of the disturbance.

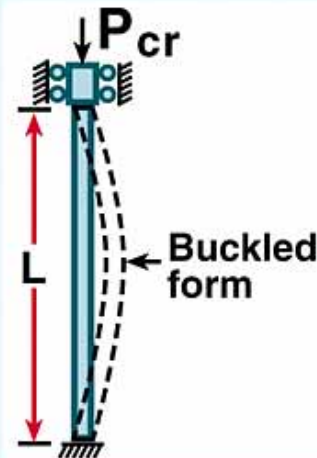
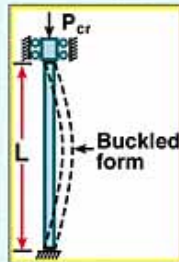
**Example:** A small ball, displaced from its original configuration, on a surface.

**Types of Equilibrium:** stable, neutral, unstable.



## Stability Criteria

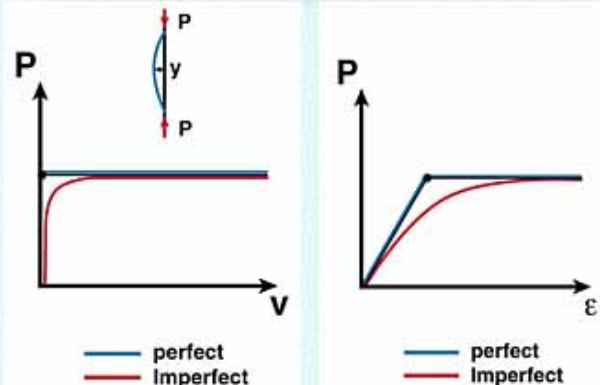
- **Static criterion:** equilibrium method - based on studying the equilibrium of an adjacent configuration.
- **Energy criterion:** energy method static - based on studying the changes in the total potential energy in going from the original to a neighboring configuration.
- **Dynamic criterion:** dynamic method - based on studying the motion resulting from a small disturbance.



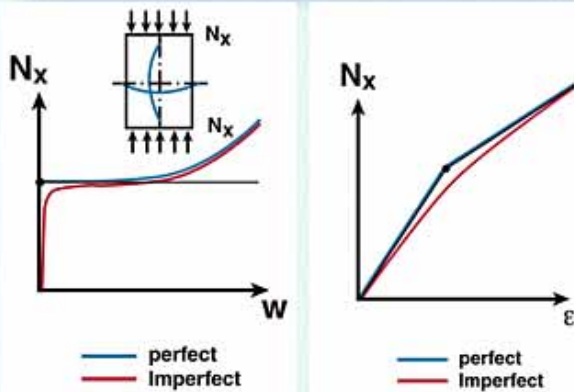
## Definitions

- **Rigid bar - spring systems** - systems with finite number of degrees of freedom  
Algebraic eigenvalue problem (system of homogeneous algebraic equations)
- **Deformable columns** - distributed systems  
Homogeneous differential equation and homogeneous boundary conditions

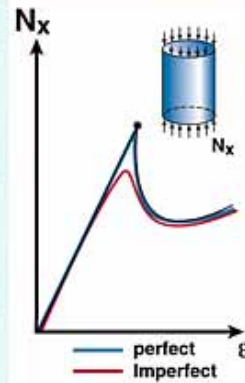
## Structures with and without Postbuckling Strength



### Structures with and without Postbuckling Strength



### Structures with and without Postbuckling Strength

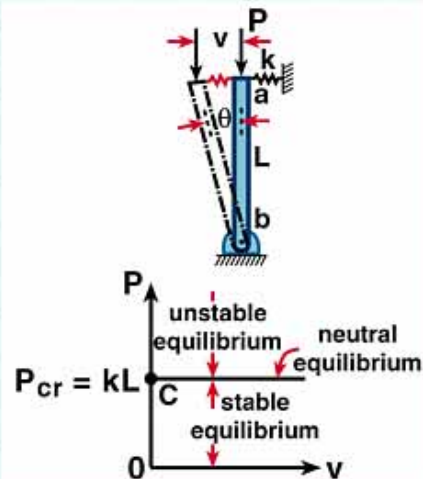
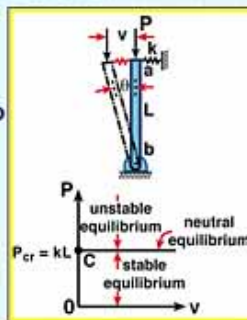


### Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Axially Loaded Rigid Bar with a Pin and a Linear Elastic Support

#### a) Equilibrium (Euler) Method

- Studying the equilibrium of an adjacent configuration (to the original one)  
Spring force =  $kV$   
where  $k$  = spring stiffness
- Moments about the support at  $b$ 
  - Disturbing moment =  $Pv$
  - Restoring moment =  $kvL$

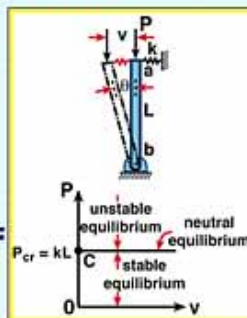


### Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Axially Loaded Rigid Bar with a Pin and a Linear Elastic Support

#### a) Equilibrium (Euler) Method

- Moments about the support at  $b$ 
  - Disturbing moment =  $Pv$
  - Restoring moment =  $kvL$
- Three different states of equilibrium can be identified:
  - Stable equilibrium  $P < kL$
  - Unstable equilibrium  $P > kL$
  - Neutral equilibrium  $P = kL$

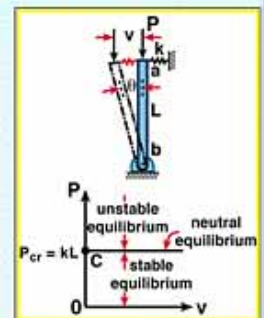


### Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Axially Loaded Rigid Bar with a Pin and a Linear Elastic Support

#### a) Equilibrium (Euler) Method

- Neutral equilibrium corresponds to the onset of buckling - presence of two equilibrium states:
  - Original - unstable
  - Deformed - stable



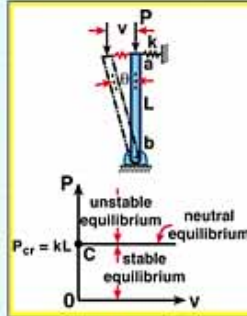


## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Axially Loaded Rigid Bar with a Pin and a Linear Elastic Support

### a) Equilibrium (Euler) Method

- This is referred to as bifurcation of equilibrium.
- The value of  $P$  associated with the neutral equilibrium state is referred to as bifurcation (or Euler) buckling load.



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

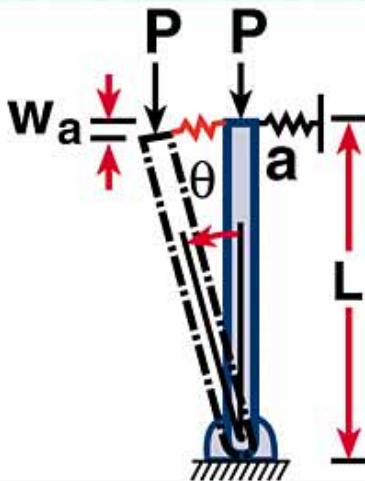
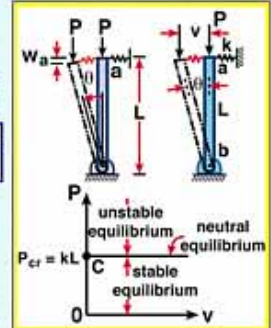
Axially Loaded Rigid Bar with a Pin and a Linear Elastic Support

### b) Energy Method

$w_a$  = vertical displacement of point  $a = L(1 - \cos\theta)$

$$= L \left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{\theta^2}{2} + \dots \right) \right] = \frac{1}{2} L \theta^2$$

$$\Delta W = \text{work done by the axial force } P = P w_a = \frac{1}{2} P L \theta^2$$



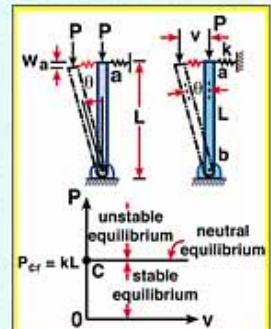
## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Axially Loaded Rigid Bar with a Pin and a Linear Elastic Support

### b) Energy Method

$$\Delta W = \text{work done by the axial force } P = P w_a = \frac{1}{2} P L \theta^2$$

$$\Delta U = \text{strain energy in the spring} = \frac{1}{2} K (L\theta)^2$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Axially Loaded Rigid Bar with a Pin and a Linear Elastic Support

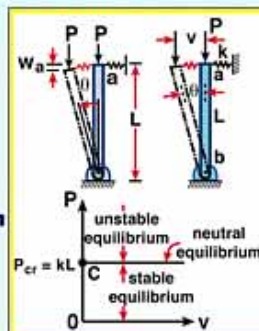
### b) Energy Method

The three different equilibrium states correspond to:

$$\Delta U > \Delta W - \text{stable equilibrium}$$

$$\Delta U < \Delta W - \text{unstable equilibrium}$$

$$\Delta U = \Delta W - \text{neutral equilibrium}$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Axially Loaded Rigid Bar with a Pin and a Linear Elastic Support

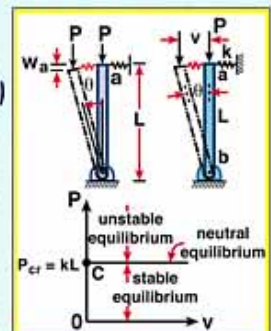
### b) Energy Method

Bifurcation buckling (critical) load corresponds to:

$$\Delta U = \Delta W$$

or

$$P_{cr} = \kappa L$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

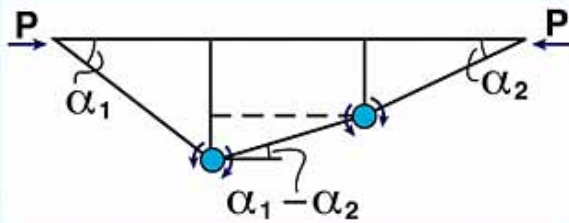
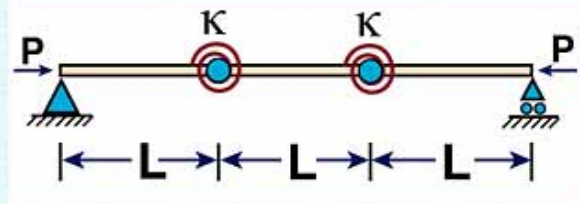
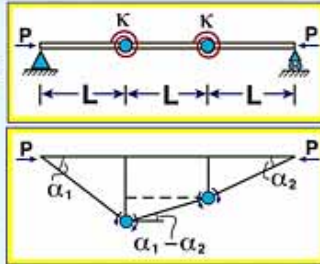
### c) Equilibrium Method

Equilibrium of deformed configuration

$$P \alpha_2 L - (2\alpha_2 - \alpha_1)K = 0$$

$$P \alpha_1 L - (2\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)K = 0$$

or



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

### c) Equilibrium Method

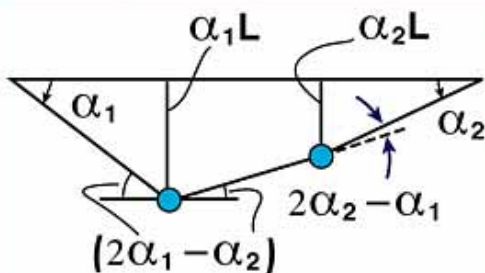
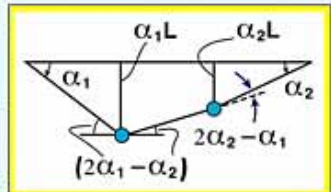
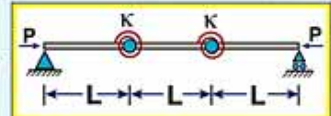
Equilibrium of deformed configuration

$$P \alpha_2 L - (2\alpha_2 - \alpha_1)K = 0$$

$$P \alpha_1 L - (2\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)K = 0$$

or

$$\begin{vmatrix} PL - 2K & K \\ K & PL - 2K \end{vmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \end{Bmatrix} = 0$$

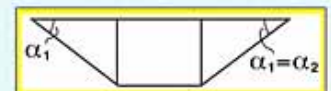


## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

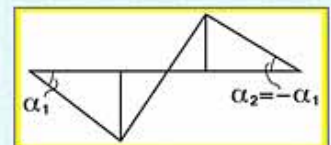
Characteristic Equation (Quadratic Equation in P)

$$L^2 P^2 - 4KL P + 3K^2 = 0$$

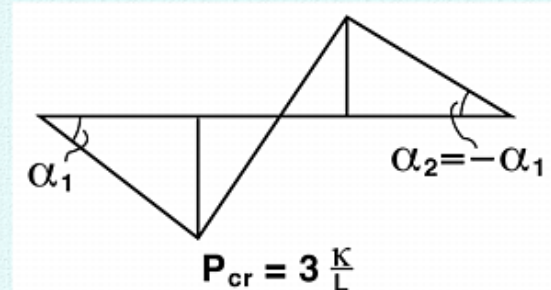
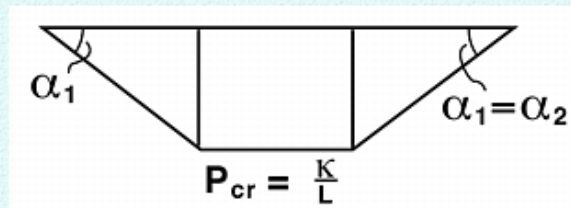
$$P_{cr1} = \frac{K}{L} \rightarrow \alpha_1 = \alpha_2$$



$$P_{cr2} = 3 \frac{K}{L} \rightarrow \alpha_1 = -\alpha_2$$







### Stability of Columns (or Struts)

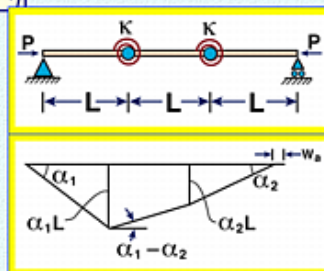
#### d) Energy Method

$$W_a = L(1 - \cos \alpha_2) + L(1 - \cos \alpha_1)$$

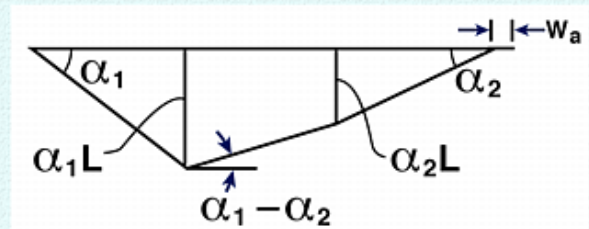
$$+ L[1 - \cos(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)]$$

$$\cong \frac{L}{2} [\alpha_2^2 + \alpha_1^2 + (\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)^2]$$

$$= L(\alpha_1^2 - \alpha_1\alpha_2 + \alpha_2^2)$$



$$W = \text{work done by axial force} = Pw_a$$



### Stability of Columns (or Struts)

#### d) Energy Method

$U$  = strain energy in springs

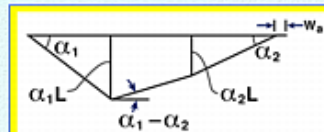
$$= \frac{1}{2} \kappa (2\alpha_2 - \alpha_1)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \kappa (2\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)^2$$

$\Pi$  = total potential energy

$$= U - W$$

For stable equilibrium  $\Pi$  is minimum

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial \alpha_1} = \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial \alpha_2} = 0$$



### Stability of Columns (or Struts)

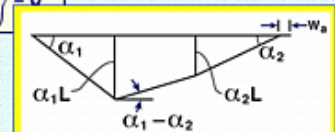
#### d) Energy Method

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial \alpha_1} = 0 \rightarrow -\kappa(2\alpha_2 - \alpha_1) + 2\kappa(2\alpha_1 - \alpha_2) - PL(2\alpha_1 - \alpha_2) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial \alpha_2} = 0 \rightarrow 2\kappa(2\alpha_2 - \alpha_1) - \kappa(2\alpha_1 - \alpha_2) - PL(-\alpha_1 + 2\alpha_2) = 0$$

or

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2PL + 5\kappa & PL - 4\kappa \\ PL - 4\kappa & -2PL + 5\kappa \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

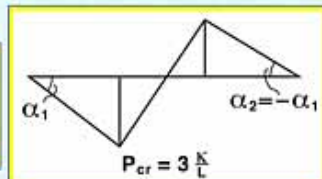
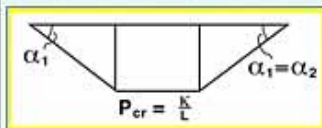
### d) Energy Method

Characteristic Equation (Quadratic in P):

$$L^2 P^2 - 4LkP + 3k^2 = 0$$

$$P_{cr1} = \frac{k}{L}$$

$$P_{cr2} = 3\frac{k}{L}$$



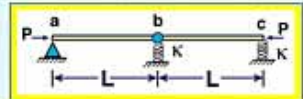
## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

### Two-Degrees of Freedom System

Equilibrium Method

Bending moment at a = 0

$$P v_2 - K v_2 \cdot 2L - K v_1 \cdot L = 0$$

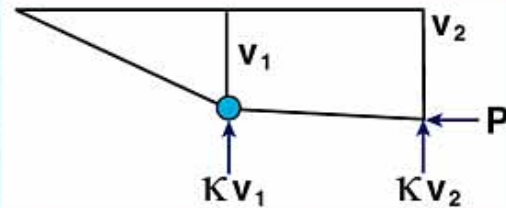
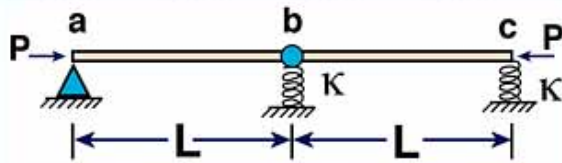
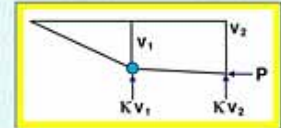


Bending moment at b = 0

$$P(v_2 - v_1) - K v_2 \cdot L = 0$$

or

$$\begin{bmatrix} -KL & P - 2KL \\ -P & P - KL \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{Bmatrix} = 0$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

### Two-Degrees of Freedom System

Characteristic Equation

$$P^2 - 3KL P + K^2 L^2 = 0$$

$$P = 0.382 KL$$

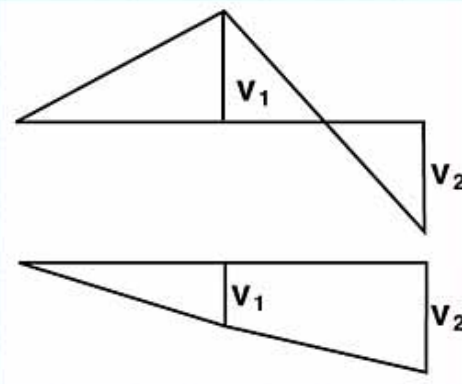
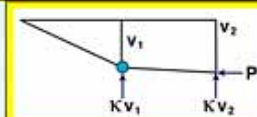
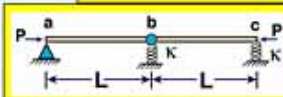
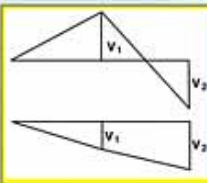
or

$$P = 2.618 KL$$

Energy Method

$$W_c = L(1 - \cos \theta_1) + L(1 - \cos \theta_2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} L \theta_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} L \theta_2^2$$





## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Two-Degrees of Freedom System

where

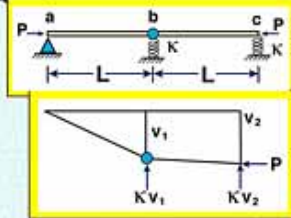
$$\theta_1 = \frac{v_1}{L}$$

$$\theta_2 = \frac{v_2 - v_1}{L}$$

$W$  = work done by axial force

$$= \frac{1}{2} PL \left( \left( \frac{v_1}{L} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{v_2 - v_1}{L} \right)^2 \right)$$

$U$  = strain energy in springs



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

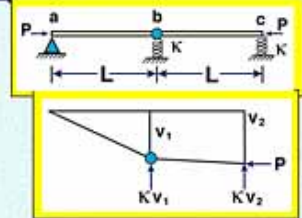
Two-Degrees of Freedom System

$$= \frac{1}{2} \kappa v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \kappa v_2^2$$

$$\Pi = U - W$$

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial v_1} = \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial v_2} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \kappa - \frac{2P}{L} & \frac{P}{L} \\ \frac{P}{L} & \kappa - \frac{P}{L} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

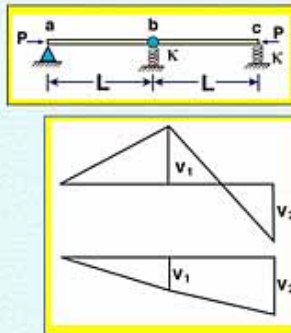
Characteristic Equation

$$\frac{P^2}{L^2} - \frac{3\kappa P}{L} + \kappa^2 = 0$$

$$P = 0.382 \kappa L$$

or

$$P = 2.618 \kappa L$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Axially Loaded Slender Column with Simply Supported Ends

Equilibrium Method

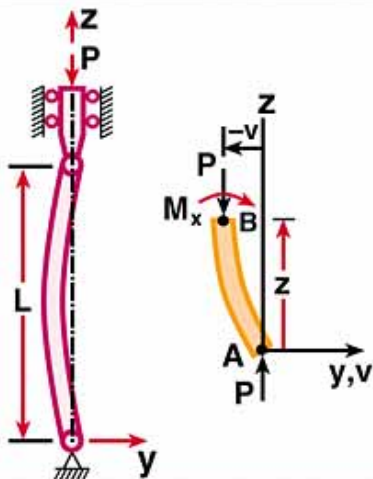
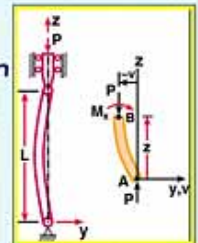
Studying the equilibrium of a portion in an adjacent configuration

$$M = -Pv$$

$$= EI \frac{d^2 v}{dz^2}$$

or

$$\frac{d^2 v}{dz^2} + \frac{P}{EI} v = 0$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Axially Loaded Slender Column with Simply Supported Ends

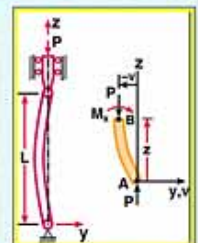
$$M = -Pv$$

$$= EI \frac{d^2 v}{dz^2}$$

or

$$\frac{d^2 v}{dz^2} + \frac{P}{EI} v = 0$$

which is a homogeneous ordinary differential equation.



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

### Boundary Conditions

At  $z = 0$  and  $L$ ,  $v = 0$

Homogeneous boundary conditions.

General solution of the differential equation is:

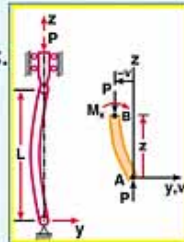
$$v = A \sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} z + B \cos \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} z$$

where  $A$  and  $B$  are constants.

Applying the boundary conditions

$$\text{At } z=0, v=0 \longrightarrow B=0$$

$$\text{At } z=L, v=0 \longrightarrow A \sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} L = 0$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Applying the boundary conditions

$$\text{At } z=0, v=0 \longrightarrow B=0$$

$$\text{At } z=L, v=0 \longrightarrow A \sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} L = 0$$

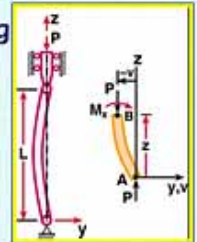
Either  $A = 0 \longrightarrow v = 0$  no buckling

or,

$$\sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} L = 0 \longrightarrow \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} L = n\pi$$

where  $n$  is an integer ( $n=1,2,3,\dots$ )

$$P = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 EI}{L^2}$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Either  $A = 0 \longrightarrow v = 0$  no buckling

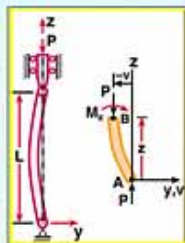
$$\text{or, } \sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} L = 0 \longrightarrow \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} L = n\pi$$

where  $n$  is an integer ( $n=1,2,3,\dots$ )

$$P = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 EI}{L^2}$$

Lowest critical load corresponds to  $n = 1$ .

$$P_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$$



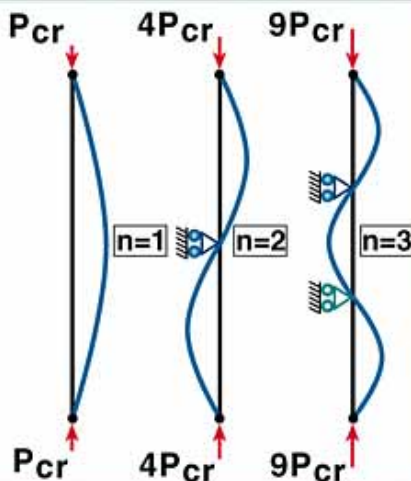
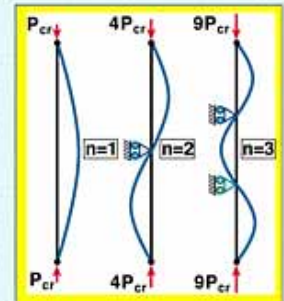
## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Higher buckling loads

$$n = 2 \longrightarrow P = 4 \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$$

$$n = 3 \longrightarrow P = 9 \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$$

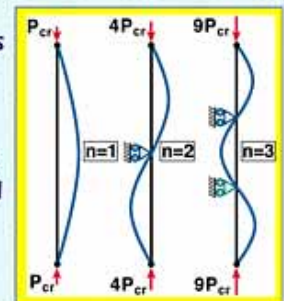
$$v = A \sin \frac{n\pi z}{L}$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

$$v = A \sin \frac{n\pi z}{L}$$

Note that the homogeneous differential and the homogeneous boundary conditions characterize an eigenvalue problem. The values of  $\sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}}$  for nontrivial solution ( $v \neq 0$ ) are called eigenvalues, and the associated  $v$ 's are called eigenfunctions.





## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

### Energy Method

Axial shortening (displacement) of the column is given by

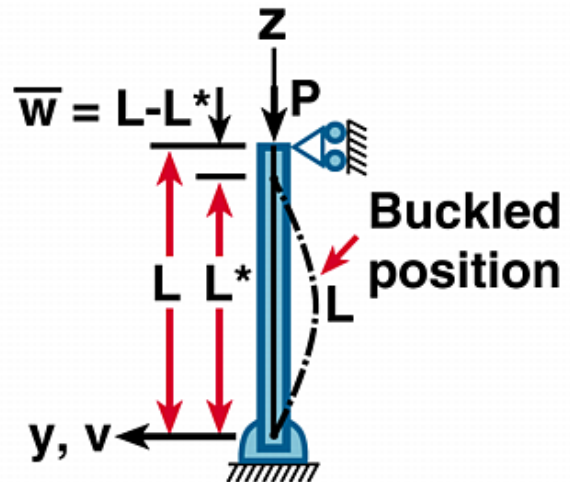
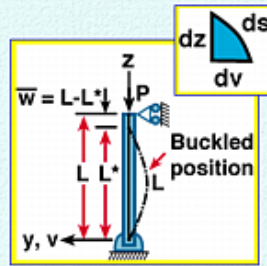
$$\bar{w} = L - L^*$$

where

$$L = \int_0^L ds, \quad L^* = \int_0^L dz$$

but,

$$(ds)^2 = (dz)^2 + (dv)^2$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

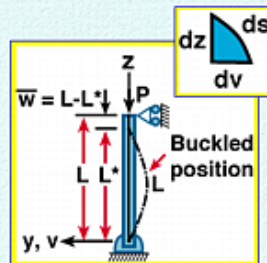
but,

$$(ds)^2 = (dz)^2 + (dv)^2$$

$$ds = \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dv}{dz}\right)^2} dz$$

$$\approx \left[1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{dv}{dz}\right)^2\right] dz$$

$$\bar{w} = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \left(\frac{dv}{dz}\right)^2 dz$$



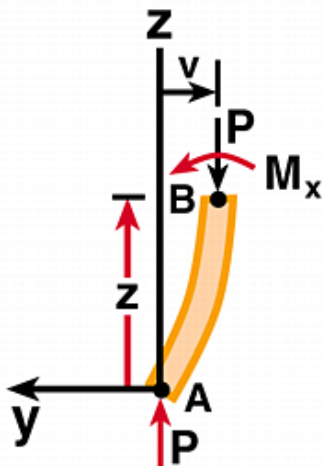
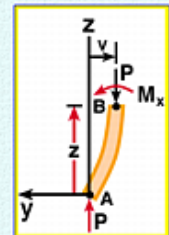
## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

$\Delta W =$  work done by the external force  $P$

$$= \frac{P}{2} \int_0^L \left(\frac{dv}{dz}\right)^2 dz$$

$\Delta U =$  strain energy of the beam

$$= \int_0^L \frac{1}{2} M \kappa dz$$



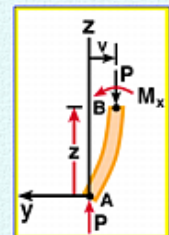
## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

where

$$\kappa \approx -\frac{d^2v}{dz^2}$$

$$M = -EI \frac{d^2v}{dz^2}$$

$$\Delta U = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L EI \left(\frac{d^2v}{dz^2}\right)^2 dz$$



## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

Assuming  $v = A \sin \frac{n\pi z}{L}$

which satisfies the boundary conditions of  $v = 0$  at  $z = 0$  and  $z = L$

$$\Delta W = \frac{\pi^2 P}{4L} n^2 A^2$$

$$\Delta U = \frac{\pi^4 EI}{4L^3} n^4 A^2$$

## Stability of Columns (or Struts)

which satisfies the boundary conditions of  $v = 0$  at  $z = 0$  and  $z = L$

$$\Delta W = \frac{\pi^2 P}{4L} n^2 A^2$$

$$\Delta U = \frac{\pi^4 EI}{4L^3} n^4 A^2$$

Bifurcation buckling load corresponds to:  $\Delta U = \Delta W$

or 
$$P_{cr} = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 EI}{L^2}$$

## Critical Stresses in Columns

If at buckling the material of the column is stressed within the elastic range, then

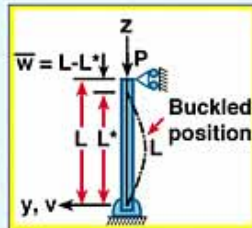
$$\sigma_{cr} = \frac{P_{cr}}{A}$$

$$= \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2} / A$$

But  $I = A r^2$  where  $r$  = radius of gyration of the cross section.

Then 
$$\sigma_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E}{(L/r)^2}$$

where  $L/r$  is called the slenderness ratio.



## Eccentrically Loaded Columns

If the column is loaded eccentrically - the load is displaced at distance  $e$  from the centerline. Then

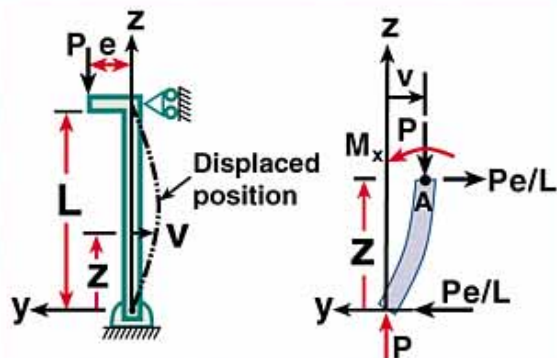
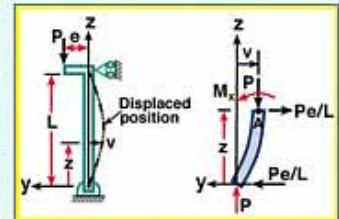
$$M_x = P \left( v + \frac{e}{L} z \right)$$

$$= -EI \frac{d^2 v}{dz^2}$$

or

$$\frac{d^2 v}{dz^2} + \frac{P}{EI} v = -\frac{P}{EI} e z$$

which is a nonhomogeneous ordinary differential equation.



## Eccentrically Loaded Columns

### Boundary Conditions

At  $z = 0, L, v = 0$

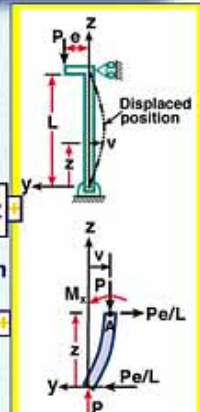
homogeneous boundary conditions.

General solution of the differential equation is:

$$v = A \sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} z + B \cos \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} z - \frac{e}{L} z$$

Applying the boundary conditions, then

$$v = e \left( \sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} z / \sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} L - \frac{z}{L} \right)$$



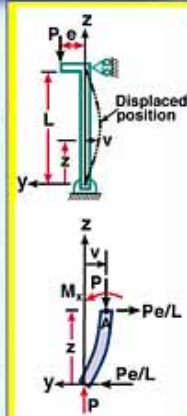


## Eccentrically Loaded Columns

For certain values of  $P$ , the denominator

$$\sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} L \text{ becomes zero, and the}$$

deflection becomes infinitely large. The corresponding values of  $P$  are the critical buckling loads.



## Eccentrically Loaded Columns

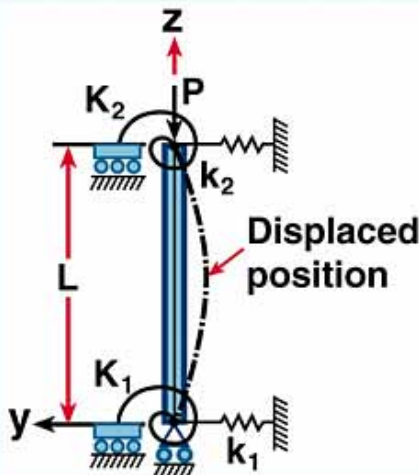
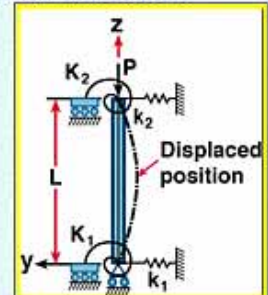
### Axially Loaded Slender Columns with General End Restraints

If the governing homogeneous differential equation for an axially loaded column, with constant  $EI$

$$\frac{d^2 v}{dz^2} + \frac{P}{EI} v = 0$$

is differentiated twice with respect to  $z$ , the following fourth-order differential equation is obtained:

$$\frac{d^4 v}{dz^4} + \frac{P}{EI} \frac{d^2 v}{dz^2} = 0$$



## Eccentrically Loaded Columns

The general solution of the differential equation is:

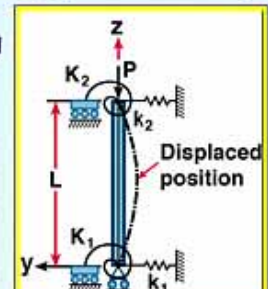
$$v = A \sin \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} z + B \cos \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} z + Cz + D$$

where  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  are constants, to be determined from four boundary conditions - two at each end of the column.

The boundary conditions specify:

displacement  $v$

slope (or rotation)  $\frac{dv}{dz}$



## Eccentrically Loaded Columns

The boundary conditions specify:

displacement  $v$

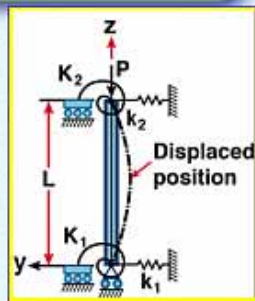
slope (or rotation)  $\frac{dv}{dz}$

bending moment

$$M_x = -EI \frac{d^2 v}{dz^2}$$

shearing force

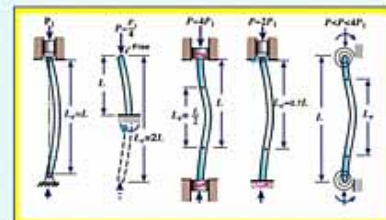
$$V_y = -EI \frac{d^3 v}{dz^3}$$

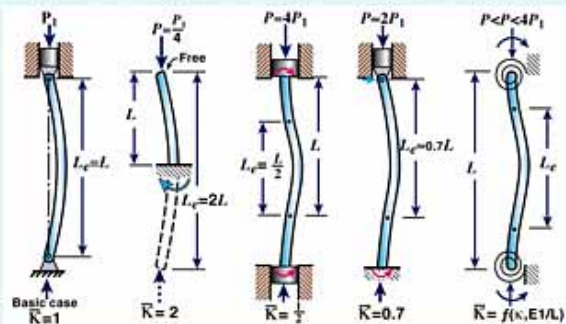


## Effect of End Restraints on Buckling Loads

Basic Case - simply supported column (Euler buckling load)

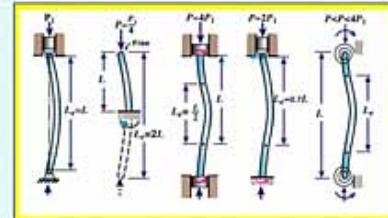
$$P_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$$





### Effect of End Restraints on Buckling Loads

End constraints can be accounted for by finding the effective length  $L_e$  (length of a simply supported column) that would have the same critical load as that of the original column.



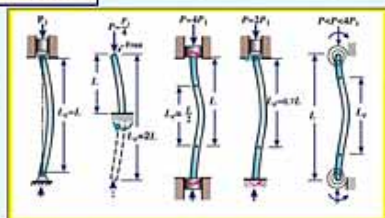
### Effect of End Restraints on Buckling Loads

$$P_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 EI}{(L_e)^2}$$

$$\sigma_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E}{(L_e/r)^2}$$

where

$$L_e = \bar{K} L$$



Basic case  $\bar{K}=1$   $\bar{K}=2$   $\bar{K}=\frac{1}{2}$   $\bar{K}=0.7$   $\bar{K}=f(\kappa, E I/L)$

### Inelastic Column Theory

The critical  $\sigma$

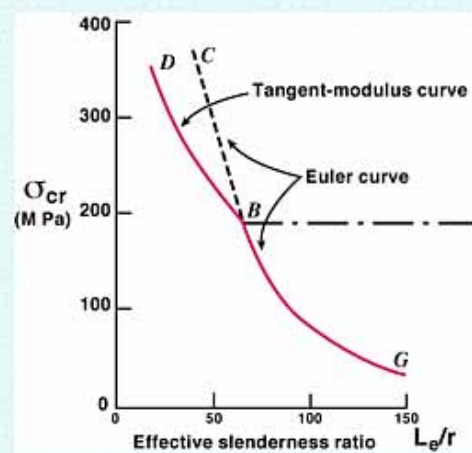
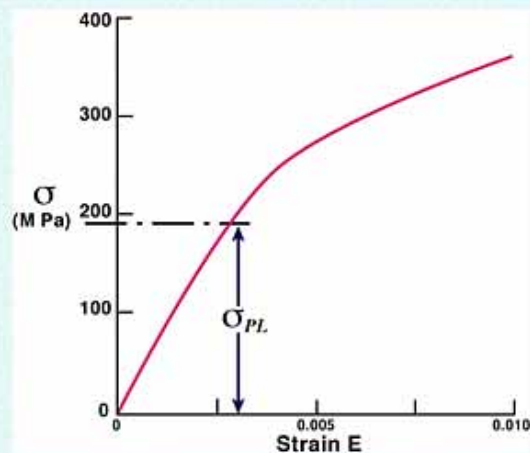
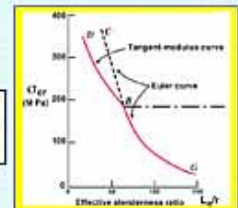
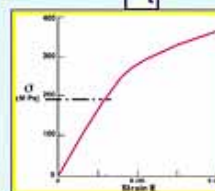
$$\sigma_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E}{(L_e/r)^2}$$

assumes that buckling occurs before yielding (columns with sufficiently large  $L_e/r$ )

For small values of  $L_e/r$  Engesser suggested replacing the Young's modulus  $E$  by the tangent modulus  $E_t$  where

$$E_t = \frac{d\sigma}{d\varepsilon}$$

$$\sigma_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E_t}{(L_e/r)^2}$$

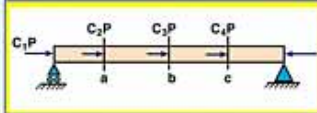




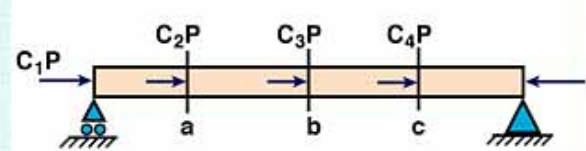
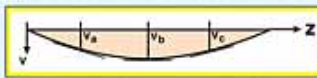
## Inelastic Column Theory

### Columns Subjected to More Than One Concentrated Load

1. Write the differential equation for each beam segment and find the general solution.



2. Apply both the boundary conditions at the supports and the continuity conditions at the points of application of concentrated loads.

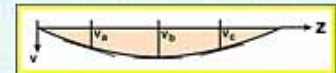


## Inelastic Column Theory

2. Apply both the boundary conditions at the supports and the continuity conditions at the points of application of concentrated loads.

$$v|_L = v|_r$$

$$\frac{dv}{dz}|_L = \frac{dv}{dz}|_r$$



## Inelastic Column Theory

3. The resulting homogeneous equations in step 2 define the eigenvalue problem, from which the buckling load can be obtained.

